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## TO:

Name: Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Group Art Unit 3764/Examiner M. Brown

Firm: U.S. Patent &amp; Trademark Office

Fax No.: 571-273-8300

Subject: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/497,590

Gary Karlin Michelson

Filed: June 6, 2000

APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD MEMBER  
HAVING A PASSAGE WITH A NON-CIRCULAR  
CROSS SECTION FOR PROVIDING PROTECTED  
ACCESS TO THE SPINE (as amended)

Attorney Docket No. 101.0044-03000

Customer No. 22882

Confirmation No.: 7688

## FROM:

Name: Thomas H. Martin, Esq.

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No. of Pages (including this): 21

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## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that the attached Transmittal Form (in duplicate; total amount of \$430.00 to cover the \$120 one-month extension fee, \$130 Petition fee, and \$180 IDS fee is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-3726), Amendment, Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144, and Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 31, 2006.

  
Sandra L. Blackmon

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